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OLD AMERICAN SILVER

Philadelphia had many prominent silversmiths in the latter part of the seventeenth century and through the eighteenth and nineteenth. Believing that much of the silverware produced from the earliest times in this city is still preserved by the older families, the Museum Committee recently authorized the Director of the Museum to communicate with all of the members of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art, and others, asking for contributions of such pieces as could be identified as of American manufacture. Numerous responses to this appeal have already been received, with offers of many interesting examples as permanent or limited loans.



Silver Creamer, by Christian Wiltberger
Silver Coffee Pot and Creamer, by Joseph Shoemaker, Philadelphia

The recent exhibition of early American silver in several of our art museums has brought out the fact that Philadelphia was at a very early period an important centre of the silversmith's art. By carrying out the policy adopted by this Museum some years ago, of building up collections illustrating the various industrial and ornamental arts in this country, large and important historical collections of American pottery and porcelain, glassware and pewter have been gathered together. It is now the intention of the management to increase the collections of American metalwork in the various branches of



Silver Creamers, by Philip Syng and Joseph Lownes, Philadelphia
Silver Can, by W. Ball, Philadelphia



Silver Coffee Pot and Tea Pot
Lent by Mrs. Thomas Skelton Harrison

the art, such as iron work, brass work and plate. Already the Museum has on exhibition an important group of early American iron work and brass, and the nucleus for a collection of silver.

Among the examples of American silver acquired by the Museum may be particularly mentioned a coffee pot and cream jug made by Joseph Shoemaker, Philadelphia, about 1797, the coffee pot being marked with his name in full; a creamer by Christian Wiltberger, Philadelphia, about 1793; a small creamer by Joseph Lownes, Philadelphia, about 1796; creamer by Philip Syng, Philadelphia, about 1780; can by William Ball, Philadelphia, about 1788, lent by Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson; coffee pot of American make, but unmarked, of the period of about 1770-1790, with inscription on base stating that it once belonged to General Washington. This beautiful example has been lent by Mrs. Thomas S. Harrison.

Among the American makers of flat ware (spoons, forks and sugar tongs) are the following:

Philadelphia: James Musgrave, about 1797; William Walker, 1796-1811; A. Brasier, 1797-1819; James Howell, about 1811; Allen Armstrong, about 1814; T. Fletcher, about 1824; R. & W. Wilson, about 1831; Stockman & Pepper, about 1831; H. J. Pepper, about 1835; G. K. Childs, about 1837; James Wriggins, about 1841.

Burlington, N. J.: Nathaniel Coleman, about 1819; J. P. Fireng, about 1830.

The following manufacturers are also represented: N. Olmsted & Son, New Haven, Conn., about 1830; George Baker, Providence, R. I., about 1825; J. O. & W. Pitkin, Hartford, Conn., about 1830; William Homes, Boston, Mass., about 1780; S. & E. Roberts, about 1830; I. Tanguy, about 1825.



OLD GLASS

Some important additions have been made to the collection of old glass. Among these are two remarkable examples of Mexican glass of the eighteenth century, consisting of an enormous tumbler, or pulque glass, measuring twelve inches in height and ten inches across the mouth. It is decorated with floral designs cut into the surface and gilded. The gold shows traces of having been reheghtened with black or dark green pigment and other colors, which have for the most part worn off. The other piece is a vase fifteen inches in height, similarly decorated. These pieces were presumably produced in Puebla, Mexico, under Spanish influence, the vase in particular being a characteristic old Spanish form.

A similar vase, but of about half the height, has been deposited in the collection by Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson. This specimen was procured in Mexico